

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

O I P E
JUL 31 2003

Applicants: D. Shah, et al.

Serial No.: 09/891,983

Filed: June 26, 2001

For: METHODS FOR THE
SIMULTANEOUS DETECTION OF HCV
ANTIGENS AND HCV ANTIBODIES

Case No.: 6821.US.01

Examiner: D. Wortman

Group Art Unit: 1648

Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR §1.8(a): I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the:

Commissioner for Patents
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Date of Deposit: *Kimberly A. Iorio 7-25-03*
Kimberly A. Iorio Date

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AUG 01 2003

Dear Sir:

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Enclosed herewith for the patent application identified above entitled METHODS FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS DETECTION OF HCV ANTIGENS AND HCV ANTIBODIES are the following:

1. Amendment and Response (18 Pages);
2. Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 (5 Pages);
3. Exhibit A (6 Pages);
4. Exhibit B (7 Pages); and
5. Return Receipt Postcard.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional Filing Fees required under 37 CFR §1.16, as well as any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17 associated with this communication for which full payment had not been tendered, to Deposit Account No. 01-0025. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.



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Respectfully submitted,
D. Shah, et al.

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Amst.D
8.4.03

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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Commission for Patents
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AUG 01 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of April 29, 2003,
please amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 12, without prejudice.

Please replace pending claims 1, 8 and 14 with the
following amended claims having the same numbering:

1. (amended) A method of simultaneously detecting at least one Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) antigen and at least one HCV antibody in a test sample comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting said test sample with:

1) at least one HCV antigen or portion thereof coated on a solid phase, for a time and under conditions

contd